

In the specification:

Please amend the first full paragraph on page 2 as follows:

Corey and Chaykovsky, J. Am. Chem. Soc., Vol. 86, pages ~~1641-1642~~ 1640-1641, 1964 found that the ethyl ester of an α,β -unsaturated acid *but which did not contain a fluorine substituent* did not react with dimethylsulfoxonium methylide at the ester functionality. Instead the sulfur ylide underwent Michael addition to the C=C double bond. In contrast, these authors teach that *phenyl* esters of typical (non-fluorine-containing) carboxylic acids do react with dimethylsulfoxonium methylide to form β -keto sulfoxonium ylides. In similar fashion Nagao *et. al.*, J. Am. Chem. Soc., Vol. 104, No. 7, pages 2079-2081, 1982 examined the reaction of the methyl ester of a non-fluorine-containing carboxylic acid with dimethylsulfoxonium methylide. Again no reaction of the ester functionality is observed and the reagent instead effects cleavage of a carbon-nitrogen bond elsewhere in the molecule. The different behavior of the fluorine-containing esters is consistent with the fact that fluorine is by far the most electronegative element on the periodic table. Based on these precedents, one skilled in the art might reasonably conclude that fluorine substitution is required to promote the homologation of alkyl esters to β -keto sulfoxonium ylides by treatment with dimethylsulfoxonium methylide.